Listing of Claims

Claim 1 (Currently Amended) A computer readable medium carrying one or more sequences of instructions for causing a first client system to enable a user to access a first database ~~a plurality of databases through a plurality of client systems contained~~ in a manufacturing plant, wherein said first database ~~each of said plurality of client systems~~ is ~~already~~ designed to be accessed using a second interface implemented in a second client system but not implemented in said first client system, wherein said first client system and said second client system are comprised in a plurality of client systems, ~~access data in only some of said plurality of databases,~~ wherein execution of said one or more sequences of instructions by one or more processors contained in said first client system causes said one or more processors to perform the actions of:

executing a user application which is related to operation/control of a manufacturing process in said manufacturing plant;

enabling said user to instantiate a user interface from said user application;

enabling said user to specify said first database as a database of interest and a search criteria using said user interface~~, wherein a second client contained in said plurality of client systems is already designed to access data in said database of interest~~;

sending said search criteria to said second client;

receiving a corresponding response; and

displaying said corresponding response.

Claim 2 (Currently Amended) The computer readable medium of claim 1, further comprising:

enabling said user to specify any desired one of multiple client systems and an operation associated with data ~~forming~~ contained in said corresponding response, said multiple client systems being comprised in said plurality of client systems; and

executing said operation in said desired one of multiple client systems.

Claim 3 (Original): The computer readable medium of claim 2, wherein said user interface is implemented in the form of an access module executed when said user instantiates said user interface, further comprising:

receiving data representing said operation in said user application; and

sending said data representing said operation and data representing said response to said second client, wherein said second client executes said operation using said response.

Claim 4 (Original): The computer readable medium of claim 3, wherein said data representing said response comprises an identifier of the data retrieved from said database of interest.

Claim 5 (Currently Amended) A computer readable medium carrying one or more sequences of instructions for enabling a new user application to access data in a plurality of databases accessible through a plurality of client systems, wherein each of said plurality of databases is accessible by a corresponding interface which is potentially implemented by only some of said plurality of client systems such that each of said plurality of client systems is already designed to access data in only some of said plurality of databases, wherein said new user application and said plurality of client systems are related to operation/control of a manufacturing process in a manufacturing plant, said computer readable medium comprising:

means for implementing a first plurality of procedures according to a first interface, wherein said first plurality of procedures ~~can be~~ are implemented on a second client system contained in ~~each of~~ said plurality of client systems, wherein said first plurality of procedures enable retrieval of desired data from a ~~corresponding~~ first database accessible from ~~the corresponding~~ said second client system; and

means for access which can be instantiated from said new user application executing on a first client system which cannot access data in ~~a~~ said first database~~, wherein said first database is accessible through a second client system~~, wherein said first client system and said second client system are contained in said plurality of client systems,

wherein said means for access enables a user to specify said first database and a search query, ~~wherein said first database is contained in said plurality of databases,~~ wherein said means for access uses said first plurality of procedures implemented in said second client system according to said first interface to retrieve data matching said query.

Claim 6 (Previously Presented): The computer readable medium of claim 5, further comprising means for implementing a second plurality of procedures according to a second interface, wherein said second plurality of procedures enable said new user application to initiate and terminate an instance of said means for access.

Claim 7 (Previously Presented): The computer readable medium of claim 6, further comprising means for implementing a third plurality of procedures according to a third interface wherein said third plurality of procedures enable said means for access to communicate an operation selected by said user, wherein said operation is executed on data accessed by said means for access.

Claim 8 (Previously Presented): The computer readable medium of claim 7, wherein said operation is executed on said second client system which retrieves said data from the corresponding database.

Claim 9 (Currently Amended): A method of enabling a new user application to access data in a plurality of databases accessible through a plurality of client systems, wherein each of said plurality of databases is accessible by a corresponding interface which is potentially implemented by only some of said plurality of client systems such that each of said plurality of client systems is already designed to access data in only some of said plurality of databases, wherein said new user application and said plurality of client systems are related to operation/control of a manufacturing process in a manufacturing plant, said method comprising:

implementing a first plurality of procedures according to a first interface on each of said plurality of client systems, wherein said first plurality of procedures are implemented on a second client system contained in said plurality of client systems, wherein said first plurality of procedures enable retrieval of desired data from a ~~corresponding~~ first database accessible from ~~the corresponding~~ said second client system; and

providing an access module which can be instantiated from said new user application executing on a first client system which cannot access data in ~~a~~ said first database~~, wherein said first database is accessible through a second client system~~, wherein said first client

system and said second client system are contained in said plurality of client systems, wherein said access module enables a user to specify said first database and a search query, ~~wherein said first database is contained in said plurality of databases,~~ wherein said access module uses said first plurality of procedures implemented in said second client system according to said first interface to retrieve data matching said query.

Claim 10 (Previously Presented): The method of claim 9, further comprising implementing a second plurality of procedures according to a second interface, wherein said second plurality of procedures enable said new user application to initiate and terminate an instance of said access module.

Claim 11 (Previously Presented): The method of claim 10, implementing a third plurality of procedures according to a third interface wherein said third plurality of procedures enable said access module to communicate an operation selected by said user, wherein said operation is executed on data accessed by said access module.

Claim 12 (Previously Presented): The method of claim 11, wherein said operation is executed on said second client system which retrieves said data from the corresponding database.

Claim 13 (Currently Amended): A method of enabling a first client system to access a first database ~~a plurality of databases through a plurality of client systems contained~~ in a manufacturing plant, wherein said first database ~~each of said plurality of client systems~~ is ~~already~~ designed to be accessed using a second interface implemented in a second client system but not implemented in said first client system, wherein said first client system and said second client system are comprised in a plurality of client systems, ~~access data in only some of said plurality of databases,~~ , said method comprising:

executing a user application which is related to operation/control of a manufacturing process in said manufacturing plant;

enabling said user to instantiate a user interface from said user application;

enabling said user to specify said first database as a database of interest and a search criteria using said user interface~~, wherein a second client contained in said plurality of client systems is already designed to access data in said database of interest~~

sending said search criteria to said second client;

receiving a corresponding response; and

displaying said corresponding response.

Claim 14 (Currently Amended): The method of claim 13, said method further comprising:

enabling said user to specify any desired one of multiple client systems and an operation associated with data ~~forming~~ contained in said corresponding response, said multiple client systems being comprised in said plurality of client systems; and

executing said operation in said desired one of multiple client systems.

Claim 15 (Original): The method of claim 14, wherein said user interface is implemented in the form of an access module executed when said user instantiates said user interface, said method further comprising:

receiving data representing said operation in said user application; and

sending said data representing said operation and data representing said response to said second client, wherein said second client executes said operation using said response.

Claim 16 (Original): The method of claim 15, wherein said data representing said response comprises an identifier of the data retrieved from said database of interest.